



California Postsecondary Education Commission

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Commission Recommends Improving Access for Part-Time College Students

SACRAMENTO — March 16, 2007 — The California Postsecondary Education Commission will receive a report on March 21, 2007 that discusses the many difficulties that part-time students face while trying to graduate from college. Part-time students take several years to complete a degree, pay more in tuition and fees, and finish school with greater debt than students who attend full-time.

The Commission's report shows that:

- Part-time students are at greater risk of not completing a degree.
- Significant numbers of the college-going population in California are "non-traditional," meaning they are older, financially independent of their parents and have jobs and families to support, so they attend college part-time.

The Commission's Executive Director Murray J. Haberman stated, "Students who attend part-time do so because they have other competing responsibilities such as family and work. We need new policies that will allow part-time students to access classes in an affordable manner, and to find ways for them to do so without having to incur a large amount of debt.

The report also recommends that systems of higher education expand campus programs to offer more degree options at a greater convenience to part-time students. "The State needs to ensure that a wide variety of educational opportunities are available to accommodate the needs of students who are unable to attend full-time. It's a matter of fairness," said Olivia K. Singh, Commission's Chair.

The full report can be viewed at http://www.cpec.ca.gov/Agendas/Agenda0703/Item_14.pdf

The Commission streams its meetings via the Internet at <http://www.cpec.ca.gov>.

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The California Postsecondary Education Commission advises the Governor and Legislature on higher education policy and fiscal issues. The Commission's primary focus is to ensure that the state's educational resources are used effectively to provide Californians with postsecondary education opportunities.